

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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P R 020730Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7213
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, SF
SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITOR - GERRY UYS

REF: STATE 262239 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA FOUR REFTEL, REGINAL LABOR OFFICER CONTACTED GERRY UYS, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS MANAGER OF AECI, THE LARGEST EXPLOSIVES MANUFACTURES IN THE WORLD, WHICH IS 51 PERCENT CONTROLLED BY THE GIANT ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION AND 31 PERCENT BY THE BRITISH FIRM ICI.

2. UYS PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES FROM FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 5 AFTER WHICH HE WILL PROCEED TO LONDON, GLASGOW, AND AMSTERDAM. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMPANY SPONSORED TRAVEL IS TO EXAMINE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES JOB ENRICHMENT AND THE HUMANIZATION OF WORK; INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TRAINING; AND THE UTILIZATION OF NON-JOURNEYMEN IN ENGINEERING WORK. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT HE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN CHANGED

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AT THE SHOP FLOOR LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES IN MOVING AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATION. UYS IS REPUTEDLY CLOSE TO NIC WIEHAHN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LABOR LEGISLATION AND WAS CONSIDERED AT ONE POINT FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION. AECI IS ONE OF THE MORE PROGRESSIVE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION. THE PHILOSOPHY OF ITS PERSONNEL MANAGERS IS TO IGNORE THOSE ASPECTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION WHICH ARE DISCRIMINATORY, BUT NOT NECESSARY TO THE COMPANY'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STRUCTURES. THIS INCREASINGLY POPULAR APPROACH IS CALLED "WORKING OUTSIDE THE LAW", BUT WITHIN ACCEPTABLE COMMON LAW PRACTICE. RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS, WHICH WILE NOT SANCTIONED WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT BUT ARE NOT ILLEGAL, WOULD BE A TYPICAL CASE IN POINT.

3. UYS' FLIGHT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

FEBRUARY 18 -- ARRIVE NYC ON PA 202
FEBRUARY 20 - ARRIVE ITHACA ON AL 341
FEBRUARY 21 - ARRIVE WASHINGTON ON AA 294
FEBRUARY 23 - ARRIVE CHICAGO ON TW 423
FEBRUARY 26 - ARRIVE MADISON ON NC 461
FEBRUARY 27 - ARRIVE NEW ORLEANS ON DC 961
MARCH 1 - ARRIVE HOUSTON ON CO 423
MARCH 3 - ARRIVE MEMPHIS ON DL 558
MARCH 5 - ARRIVE NYC ON BN 118
MARCH 6 - ARRIVE LONDON ON BA 510

UYS HAS ALREADY MADE ALL NECESSARY HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

4. ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE UYS HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED:

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FEBRUARY 19 - NYC, LOUIS CARTER, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE.
FEBRUARY 20 - ITHACA, PROFESSOR R. MOKERSIE, SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.
FEBRUARY 22 - WASHINGTON, ED MCHALE, USIS.
FEBRUARY 23 - WASHINGTON, PROFESSOR R. GODSON, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY AND P. BROWN, METRO RAILWAYS.
FEBRUARY 26 - MADISON, PROFESSOR R. MILLER, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.
FEBRUARY 28 - NEW ORLEANS, J. DUFFY, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
MARCH 1 - HOUSTON, P. SPARKS, EXXON COMPANY.
MARCH 3 - MEMPHIS, CARLES SCRUGGS, 84 NORTH IDLEWILD ST.

5. UYS WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN CONFIRMING ABOVE APPOINTMENTS AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WITH AFL-CIO, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD AND NATIONAL CENTER FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND WORKING LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

6. ACTION: PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE CAN BE ARRANGED AND IF AFFIRMATIVE CONTACT NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER UPON ARRIVAL IN UNITED STATES.
JOHNSON

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